

May 14, 1974

Everyday is special because you are.

Hi Vicki and Jim,

I'll take this peculiar typewriter "in hand" again and attempt to write you a letter! How are things going with you? Have you closed your deal for the house yet? The place sounds real nice-and plenty of room too! Four bedrooms?? Is it a two level house or perhaps one of them could be a study or den-Anyway, you will each have your own place to do your "thing"= You can sew(when you have the time) and Jim can have his desk and office things in his-And you'll still have an extra room for company-Ha! The setting of the house sounds very nice too-some trees, etc- you will have fun landscaping it too-Or will the developer do a little of that? Only at your request and for an additional fee, no doubt! And perhaps not then-They're using so much "mounding", I call it, here in new landscaping and I really like it! It consists of piling the soil up in little hillocks along the buildings and lot line, or wherever you'd want it that way-it is higher at corners, perhaps, and uneven in other places, too, then small ornamental trees are planted on the highest parts and shrubbery here and there to look attractive and then the ground is covered with a thick layer of bark dust-this way you may not have a great lot of grass to mow- I'd like to redo our front yard this way next year-if and when dad has time to work on it-It will require transplanting some things, too -which I can't very well do-Anyway, you'll have a lot of fun working at it, I'll bet-

Today started out miserable! It was dark, windy and rainy when I got up at 6:00-and hadn't improved a bit by the time I left at 7:00-but looks much better now (11:15) the sun is shining and just a hint of a breeze is fluttering the flag outside-

Dad and the fellas didn't go to work this morning because they planned to dig some more dirt out from under where the reconstruction will take place at the south end of the barn-so that would have been pretty dismal a job in the rain-then they were going to work this afternoon at the Shell Oil Dist. plant in Mac for Charlie Laughlin-so maybe they will be doing that this afternoon- peaches will need spraying again the last of the week -always something to do!

We took Francie out to dinner Sunday and of course, that

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pleasant for me, too. No cooking on Sunday for a

Then later in the afternoon we drove her to Portland to stay a couple of days with Marjorie-and enroute home we stopped at Ken and Debbi's-He called Friday night to ask us to come by-A friend is moving back to Denver and the group was having a picnic in a woods right behind their apartment complex in the afternoon so they weren't free until about 6:00- Jerry called last week to give us his new address and phone number-Tom had moved out of their house when he was sent

to San Diego so Jerry was looking for a smaller place or someone to live with him-So one of the fellas who worked at the plant was going back up to Chico to go back to school and would be moving out of a duplex-so Jerry and another boy from work took that over and he sounded the happiest and most contented that I have noticed since he's been out of the Navy-He seemed pleased with his job and opportunities there and sounded good-all of which made me feel good too! I'll give you the new address- You might as well have it even though you may not use it- 507 So. Ditmar St, Oceanside, Ca. 92054-I wrote him a letter on Friday- I keep saying I'm going to do better at letter writing but seldom do!

Looked it up on a map and found it to be quite a distance east and south!! That country has always held a fascination for me. Sometime I hope to go there too.

You spoke about a fireplace-I'm sure there are several types you can have installed after a place is finished-the hardest part would be the chimney or what ever you'd use as a chimney-There is a new "modern" Franklin fireplace which we've seen in a couple of houses lately-and they're real nice-and

then there are several ~~types~~ of free standing metal fireplaces that look good—a fireplace is really cozy, alright—and I love them, too—We haven't used either of ours much this winter, however—the wood was outside and wet all the time!

I haven't bought material for my dress yet—polyester seems rather warm—that is, if we ever have summer! And that's about all there is to choose from—Write soon and tell us more about the house and if you get the teaching job you mentioned, etc. We're looking forward to seeing you soon—will you move first? Yes, I guess you will—

Much love, Mom + Dad.